



News Release

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 N Cameron St, Rm G-19 · Harrisburg, PA 17110

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Contact: Marc Tosiano, 717-787-3904
nass-pa@nass.usda.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pennsylvania Agaricus Mushroom Production

HARRISBURG, PA, Aug 26, 2008 --- Pennsylvania growers led all states by producing 63 percent or 496.7 million pounds of Agaricus mushrooms during the 2007-08 season, virtually no change from last year's production according to the Pennsylvania Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Pennsylvania growers received, on average, 91.2 cents per pound for all Agaricus mushroom sales. Pennsylvania's Agaricus crop was valued at \$453 million, up 2 percent from the 2006-07 crop.

Commonwealth mushroom producers sold 405 million pounds of Agaricus mushrooms for fresh market. Fresh market sales tallied \$399.7 million. In addition, Pennsylvania growers supplied 78 percent or 92 million pounds of Agaricus mushrooms sold in the U.S. for processing. Processing sales in Pennsylvania totaled \$53.3 million for the 2007-08 season. Prices for mushroom sales are the average price that the producer receives at the point of first sale.

Chester County, PA, accounted for 60 of the 69 Agaricus mushroom growers in Pennsylvania. Chester County growers produced 340 million pounds that were valued at \$306 million. The growing area in Chester County was 11.3 million square feet and the total fillings were 53 million square feet.

Nationally, Agaricus mushroom sales totaled 793 million pounds, down 3 percent from the 2006-07 season and 5 percent below two years ago. Pennsylvania accounted for 63 percent of the total volume of sales and second ranked California contributed 14 percent. The value of the Agaricus crop is estimated at \$914 million, down slightly from the 2006-07 season. Brown mushrooms, including Portabello and Crimini varieties, accounted for 105 million pounds, up 6 percent from last season but 11 percent lower than the 2005-06 crop year. Brown mushrooms accounted for 13 percent of the total Agaricus volume sold. The brown mushroom crop value of sales for the 2007-08 season is \$143 million, 16 percent of the total Agaricus value.

Value of sales for commercially grown specialty mushrooms in 2007-08 is \$50 million, up 9 percent from the 2006-07 season. A specialty grower is defined as having at least 200 natural wood logs in production or some commercial indoor growing area. Sales of Shiitake mushrooms totaled 9.90 million pounds for the 2007-08 season, up 42 percent from the previous season. Price per pound received by growers, at \$2.81, down 55 cents from 2006-07. Sales volume of Oyster mushrooms, at 4.30 million pounds, down 16 percent from the previous season. Price per pound received by growers, at \$2.87, is up 46 cents from the previous season. Sales of exotic mushrooms, other than Shiitake or Oyster, are 2.01 million pounds, down 3 percent from last season. Price per pound received by growers, at \$4.86, is up 2 cents from 2006-07.

Growers sold 39.8 million pounds of mushrooms that were certified organic during the 2007-08 growing season, 9 percent above 2006-07 season. Out of the 39.8 million pounds, 13.3 million pounds, or 33 percent of the total were sold as certified organic mushrooms, while the rest were sold without the certified organic label. This compares to 8.78 million pounds, or 24 percent sold as certified organic during the 2006-07 crop year. Agaricus mushrooms accounted for 84 percent of the mushrooms sold as certified organic, while all specialty mushrooms made up the remainder. These certified organic sales represent 2 percent of the 2007-08 total mushroom sales. The number of certified organic mushroom growers totaled 42, up 1 from the previous season. These growers represent 15 percent of the 286 total mushroom producers.

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